

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**CORRECTED  
FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**SB 806 – HB 1871**

March 8, 2010

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014973):** Establishes that metropolitan health departments with dental staffs and clinical facilities are not relieved from occasionally providing adult patients with emergency dental services who present for relief of pain and infection because the phrase, “to the extent possible within budget limitations,” is included in Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-1-304(b). Authorizes the metropolitan health departments to charge a fee for those services and requires that the departments see adult emergency patients during cancelled or open appointments in their schedule within current budget limitations. Authorizes the Commissioner of Health to monitor compliance and may request corrective actions if necessary.

**CORRECTED FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Other Fiscal Impact – Currently, the Shelby County and Davidson County Health Departments are the only metropolitan health departments that provide dental services only to children. The counties will have to provide occasional emergency dental services to adults within their budgets. Any increase in costs to provide these services will result in a decrease in expenditures for other programs. Should the counties not be able to provide emergency dental services to adults within their current budgets, the counties could be prohibited from providing TennCare services through the Department of Health’s School Based Dental Prevention Program resulting in an approximate decrease of \$2,400,000 in TennCare funding for the health departments.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

On March 8, 2010, we issued a fiscal note containing an error in the summary of the bill. The words “a minimum fee or a fee based on a sliding scale” in the second sentence are incorrect and have been changed to “a fee” in the bill summary. The fiscal impact of this bill remains unchanged.

**Other Fiscal Impact - Currently, the Sullivan County, Shelby County and Davidson County Health Departments are the only metropolitan health departments that provide dental services to children. The counties will have to provide occasional emergency dental services to adults within their budgets or for a minimum fee. It is estimated that the departments will not be able to collect a significant amount of funds for the services because most of the**

**SB 806 – HB 1871 (CORRECTED)**

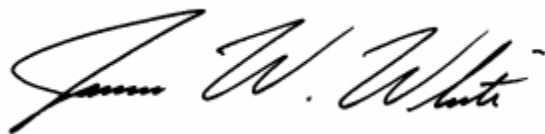
**services will be provided to indigent adults. Any increase in costs to provide these services may result in a decrease in expenditures for other programs.**

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Sullivan, Davidson, and Shelby Counties are currently the only metropolitan health departments with dental facilities that are not providing emergency services to adults.
- These health departments would have to occasionally provide emergency dental services to adults within their budgets. These services would be performed during cancelled or open appointments in their schedule. Any increase in costs to provide these services may result in a decrease in expenditures for other programs.
- The provisions of the bill as amended authorize the metropolitan health departments to charge a minimum fee for the dental services. Since these services will be provided mostly to indigent adults, it is estimated that there will not be a significant amount of fees collected.
- Any cost to the Department of Health to monitor the program will not be significant and can be accommodated within existing resources.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml